

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

CONTOUR ORCHARD AND OTHER FRUIT AREA
(acre)

CODE 331

DEFINITION

Planting orchards, vineyards, or small fruits so that all cultural operations are done on the contour.

Evaluate the need for other conservation practices such as Cover and Green Manure Crops (Practice 340), Grassed Waterways (Practice 412), Diversions (362), or Terraces (Practice 600).

PURPOSE

- Reduce soil and water loss
- Better control and use water,
- To operate farm equipment more easily.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On sloping land where soil and water losses need to be controlled, especially if a permanent cover is not established.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for row grade and critical slope length limits can be found in the Contouring (330) Practice Standard and Specifications.

Trees and plants will be planted on or parallel to the row guidelines.

CONSIDERATIONS

In planting orchard, fruit, and vine stock following spacing recommendations of the University of Illinois Extension and Southern Illinois University.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current versions of standards, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service at <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

NRCS-IL
July 2002